

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



FEATURE FOCUS



Meet Rev. June Boutwell - Candidate for new Designated Conference Minister

The search committee has selected Rev. June Boutwell as the candidate for the new Designated Conference Minister position. She will be presented to the Southeast Conference as a whole at a special call meeting on February 1st. Members of the Southeast Conference are encouraged to come meet Rev. June and hear about her ministry and plans for this new position. [You can see Rev. June's bio by clicking here.](#)

The following is an invitation to this special meeting from Jim Crabb, SEC Moderator:

To: Member churches and ministers of the Conference

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2014

Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time

Location: Victory for the World in Stone Mountain, Georgia

Purpose: To consider a call for a Conference Minister and other matters related to such call

This meeting is called by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article III of the Bylaws. The Board has received the report of the Conference Minister Search Committee and recommends that the Conference call the Rev. June Evlen Boutwell to serve as Conference Minister for a designated term of three years.

Voting Delegates are:

1. All authorized ministers holding standing in the Conference or its Associations.
2. Lay delegates for each member congregation. The number of delegates from each member church is determined as follows:
 1. Each member church is entitled to 3 voting delegates.
 2. Congregations with over 100 members may have one additional voting delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof.
 3. No church shall have more than 10 delegates.
3. Members of the Board of Directors.

Please share this notice with all ministers in your congregation and your delegates to the Conference. Enclosed you will also find a brief biography of Rev. Boutwell.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta for the start of a new time in the ministry of the Southeast Conference of our beloved United Church of Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Jim Crabb

CONFERENCE NEWS

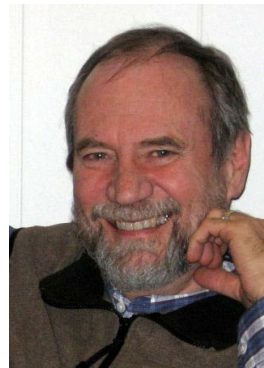


Global Ministries missionary to visit SEC Churches

Phyllis Byrd, a missionary who has served Global Ministries for the past ten years in Africa is scheduled to visit churches in the SEC between March 1st and March 20th. She serves as Coordinator of the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) in Nairobi, Kenya as Director of the Just Communities on behalf of Global Ministries. She also facilitates assignment of Global Ministries' short-term volunteers. If you are interested in having Phyllis visit your church to share her experiences and stories of her time in Kenya please [email Aqueelah As-Salaam by email by clicking here](#) or call the Conference office.

Neighbors in Need grants awarded to Southeast Conference Churches

ICM Reflections



Lifted by Music and Hospitality

My visits to SEC congregations have been more limited since my last reflection piece in the December e-news, but what I have experienced has been a stirring mix of special music and gracious hospitality. Conference Ministers regularly visit different congregations, and over my years the music and hospitality in different conferences has varied greatly. Like many, I've experienced the discomfort of music played too slowly or choirs singing off key. I appreciate the offerings of all volunteers, but while I'm not even a sophisticated music listener, I do notice when the music fails to be uplifting. And I've visited more than one congregation over the years that claim to welcome all visitors, and then not a single person offers even a perfunctory greeting. It is so easy to be friendly and welcoming with people we know, and it takes intentionality for a congregation to learn to be truly welcoming to first time visitors. I'm pleased to proclaim that my experiences here in SECUCC have been marked by great sounds - both by the musicians adding to the worship experience and by the words of members offering genuine words of welcome!

[\(Click here to read more!\)](#)

On behalf of The United Church of Christ and Justice and Witness Ministries, four grants were issued to three churches and a foundation within the Southeast Conference. Grants of \$1000 were given to Peace Congregational Church in Clemson, SC for their work in educating parents of LGBT youth, Church of the Savior UCC in Knoxville, TN for advocating safe labor practices for immigrant workers, and the Tennessee Equality Project Foundation in Nashville, TN. A grant of \$1500 was given to Restoration Inclusive Ministries Inc. in UCC, Decatur, GA for addressing issues of HIV in the LGBT community. We congratulate these recipients and support the justice work that they are undertaking within their communities.

These grants are made possible through contributions to the Neighbors In Need Campaign (NIN), collected in the fall from congregation members of the UCC. The Annual Neighbors in Need Offering is scheduled for most UCC Churches on the first Sunday in October. We thank all of the SEC churches who send gifts for the important ministry.

For more information regarding JWM visit the website at www.ucc.org. [You can click here to get to the "Advocate For Justice" link.](#)



SEC Reimbursement Policy for 2014

The Southeast Conference has a new reimbursement policy in place for travel expenses. Those who need to travel for Conference work should submit for 14 cents a mile when driving. Travelers should also plan to share hotel rooms when possible or when solo will receive a 50% reimbursement for the room.

Generosity Corner

Capital Campaign Update

Cumulative Pledge payments (after expenses) paid from 2009 through year end 2013 total \$164,081. Thanks to all who have paid toward your pledge this year. The total will continue to grow as many churches and individuals have at least 2 more years of payments remaining. We are fortunate in this Conference to have churches and individuals with hearts of great generosity.

In 2014, the Priorities Committee and the Board of Directors will be ready to review applications for those churches and Conference programs wishing to apply for funding. Funding, of course, will be directed toward 3 initiatives within the Southeast Conference:

Building Congregations - which includes Congregational Renewal & New Churches

Building Leaders - which includes Student Scholarships, Clergy Development, & Youth

Building Connection - which includes church technology, participation, video conferencing

Please contact Debbie Spearman, dspearman@secucc.org, if you have any questions about the Campaign or how to apply.



Winter Youth Retreat

The Winter Youth Retreat is fast approaching for the weekend of January 17-20 at Blowing Rock Conference Center! Each year the retreat brings youth together from across the Southeast and Southern Conferences to explore themes of justice, have fun, and connect on the faith journey.

There's still room to register! [Registration materials can be downloaded by clicking here.](#)

[You can see the schedule of events for the retreat by clicking here.](#)



Back Bay Mission trips now open for the 2015 calendar year!

Supervised by dedicated Back Bay Mission staff, Mission Trip volunteers work in a variety of Mission programs, including, housing rehabilitation, the food pantry and the Micah Day Center.

Volunteers also have the chance to work at our sister organization, Loaves and Fishes. The wide variety of ministries at Back Bay Mission ensures that there is always something for volunteers to be involved in. Volunteers also have opportunities for education, fellowship and team building. The Mission has an accomplished record in housing rehabilitation services that is unparalleled in the region and is one of the most highly respected and utilized volunteer programs in the United Church of Christ.

For more information on volunteer opportunities at Back Bay Mission, please visit their website - [by clicking here](#) - and look under the Get Involved menu tab. To reserve a date for a mission trip, please contact the Mission's volunteer coordinator by email at volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org. The minimum age for volunteers is 14.

Depending on group size and scheduling, some dates for 2014 may be available as well.



Helping Families Recover From Disaster: A Webinar Series for helping professionals

Knowing how to respond to a natural disaster can be

Note: **Contribution statements will be sent the week of January 22nd to all churches and individuals who made a 2013 payment to the Campaign.**

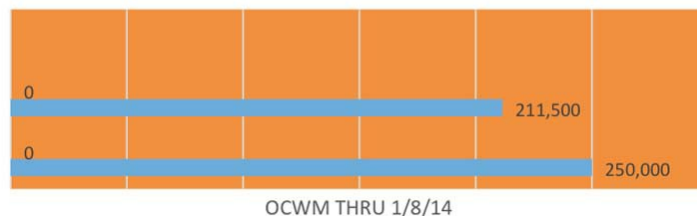
OCWM UPDATE

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support payment DEADLINE is HERE:

January 15, 2014

Has your church returned it's payment for 2013 to the Conference office? If every church could make a payment to Basic Support, the Conference would have a very good chance of meeting its \$250,000 budget. We are NOT as close as we would like to be. As of this writing, January 8, 2014, \$211,500 in OCWM Basic Support has been received. If you have questions about OCWM payments, please contact Debbie Spearman or Gerri Hudson at the Conference office.

OCWM ACTUAL VS BUDGET DOLLARS



TESTIMONY!

The Southeast Conference has pledged to support TESTIMONY!, the National United Church of Christ's New Church Venture Fund. The goal of the fund is to urgently invest \$1,000,000 toward the creation of innovative new church starts and revitalizing existing communities of faith. www.ucc.org/testimony

Much of the growth of the UCC, is happening right here in the Southeast Conference! So it is our belief many of the dollars raised will be reinvested here in the Southeast. Can you make a minimum \$100.00 gift to TESTIMONY! If so, please donate online at www.secucc.org and click on the option, Other, and indicate TESTIMONY! Or send your check to the SEC Conference office, c/o Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator.

valuable for churches when the unthinkable happens in their communities. A webinar series from the University of Minnesota will help professionals and volunteers assist individuals and families with financial recovery from a disaster. The webinar series is free to attend.

January 14, 2014 - "Where Am I Financially? Taking a Financial Snapshot"

February 18, 2014 - "Where Will I Live? Making Housing Decisions"

March 18, 2014 - "What Will Life Look Like? Creating The New Reality"

[To attend one of these webinars, click here.](#)



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Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ



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